



July 2023 Bulletin

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - 117 Industrial Road , Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2T8



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EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

HOW WE WALK CEREMONY – July 4, 2023 – 7am Lake Laberge Boat Launch

As part of the *How We Walk with the Land and Water* initiative, TKC will be hosting a water ceremony July 4th at 7am at the Deep Creek Boat launch. All Citizens are invited to attend. A light snack will be provided. Please contact Natalie Leclerc at (867) 668-3613 ext. 604 or email nleclerc@taan.ca. Elders needing a ride can contact Victoria Holmes at (867) 334-8866.



ELDERS WELCOME

Joe Creek Site Tour – July 4-7 – Lake Laberge

The week of July 4-7th, TKC Lands & Resources' staff will be partnering with Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada biologists for initial site visits to Joe Creek, along the eastern shoreline of Lake Laberge. Here, they will assess the current conditions and discuss options for a future restoration program. The program follows the success of the TKC Fox Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Plan, which has been active since 2006. Experience gained from that project would be applied to Joe Creek. TKC Lands & Resources are inviting Elders to join staff on these initial site visits and to share your knowledge and thoughts on the Joe Creek system and salmon lifecycle in the creek. Seats will be limited by the number of boats we are able to secure, but we will strive to accommodate all of those interested. Transportation to and from Lake Laberge and Joe Creek will be provided via car and boat. Honouraria will also be offered for any Elders able to attend and share their knowledge, as we scout out this exciting new project. If you have availability that week and are interested, or have any questions, please contact Brandon Crawford, Supervisor of Fish & Wildlife at (867) 668-3613 ext. 603 or email fishandwildlife@taan.ca.



ADÄKA FESTIVAL RETURNS TO YUKON

June 29-July 5, Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

This year's Adäka Festival will be bigger and better than ever and is set to run June 29-July 5 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. The 2023 festival will

mark the 11th year of the ever-popular event and feature storytelling, cultural presentations, workshops, and more. This year's theme celebrates the unity of the Northern Dene Nations and Yukon First Nations as they come together to honour their cultures through art, music, stories, language, history, and more. Impressive performances will be held on the Main Stage in the Long House, while traditional practices and teachings will be woven into the week's invigorating schedule. A full schedule of events is available at www.taana.ca or on the festival's website at www.adakafestival.ca.



CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT CALLOUT

Deadline: Monday July 17, 2023

If you would like the Constitution amended at the General Assembly (August 11-13), you can submit your amendment detailing the section that you would like changed and the proposed wording for the new section. Submissions can be made to Breanna Taylor, Legislation & Policy Analyst **by 4:00pm, Monday July 17**. She can be reached at legislationoffice@taan.ca or 867-668-3613 ext. 206. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote at the General Assembly is needed to approve the amendment. A copy of the current Constitution can be found at <https://taan.ca/legal-and-regulatory/constitutions/>.



COMMUNITY MEETING

July 20, 2023 – TKC Fish Camp 5:30pm

Citizens are invited to attend this summer's Community Meeting set for Thursday, July 20, starting at 5:30pm at TKC's Fish Camp at Lake Laberge. The meeting will give Chief and Council a chance to update Citizens on progress to date and allow Citizens a chance to offer feedback and have discussions. Transportation will be available. The evening will include dinner and door prizes. Watch for more details on TKC's Facebook page and website. For more information contact TKC's Office Manager at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203 or email officemanager@taan.ca.



BIOBLITZ

July 26-27, 2023 – TKC Fish Camp

Looking for something fun to do this summer? Join Lands & Resources at TKC's Fish Camp, July 26th and 27th from 9am-3pm for our first annual TKC BioBlitz! Wait, but what is a BioBlitz? A BioBlitz is a Citizen-science based event to identify and record as many species of plants, insects, birds and animals in a specific area and time period. This will help Lands & Resources' staff ensure that these species and habitats are safeguarded as we monitor for impacts of climate change, future development proposals, and backcountry recreation. The event will include boat rides to the Old Ta'an Village and prizes, food, campfire, and two days of outdoor fun! For more information contact Brandon Crawford, Supervisor of Fish and Wildlife at fishandwildlife@taan.ca.



TKC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 11-13, 2023 - TKC Fish Camp

Plans are now well underway for the upcoming three-day Annual General Assembly set to take place during the weekend of August 11-13 at TKC's Fish Camp at Lake Laberge. Delegate forms are available at www.taan.ca. Citizens wishing to attend virtually can do so, and those wishing to submit constitution amendments must do so by July 17, 2023. This year's General Assembly will include door prizes, family entertainment, and events for all ages. A children's area will be set up and supervised during the meeting. Stay tuned for updates on TKC's Facebook page and website in the coming weeks. Transportation to and from the event is available and must be arranged prior to the event. For more information, please contact TKC's Office Manager at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203 or email officemanager@taan.ca.



COMMITTEE VACANCY – LAKE LABERGE RENEWABLE RESOURCE COUNCIL

Deadline: Until Filled

Lands & Resources is actively looking for a Citizen who is interested in joining the Lake Laberge Renewable Resource Council (LRRC) for a term ending December 2026. As a member of the LRRC, you are expected to attend monthly meetings, the Annual General Assembly,

and working group meetings. Interested persons are requested to submit a letter of interest and a copy of their resume. As outlined in Chapter 16.6.4., once Chief and Council have selected their nominee, the name will be sent to the Minister of Environment for acceptance. Those wishing to apply please contact Jessica Lee at (867) 668-3613 ext. 602 or email resources@taan.ca.



ELIJAH SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL VACANCY

Deadline: Until Filled

Have you ever considered sitting on a School Council? TKC has a guaranteed seat on the School Council for Elijah Smith Elementary School that has recently become vacant. We are looking for a parent, grandparent or Citizen interested in being a representative for Ta'an students to sit on this Council. If you are interested please contact Development Manager, Jessica Bryant, at (867) 668-3613 ext. 408 or email developmentmanager@taan.ca for more information about this exciting opportunity. The vacancy will be open until filled.



ATCO INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

ATCO Electric Yukon is accepting applications for its annual ATCO Indigenous Education Awards Program. The program supports students from First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities who demonstrate a balanced lifestyle and commitment in their quest for education. The Merit, Bursary, Scholarship and Bridging Awards are available to select students who demonstrate leadership capabilities and strive to be role models in their school and community. You can apply if you are a Canadian Indigenous person, are enrolled in junior/senior high school (including upgrading) or an accredited post-secondary institution or training/certificate program. The deadline to submit your application is August 15, 2023. For more information go to www.ATCO.com/IndigenousAwards.

Go to www.taan.ca
and TKC's Facebook Page for
regular updates
and events of interest!



Flying High

Ta'an Kwächän Council was pleased with the turnout on June 20 at a special City of Whitehorse recognition ceremony to commemorate the permanent addition of Ta'an Kwächän Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation flags to its headquarters. The city also unveiled the new placename of Kêye Ghända Ghakwiye Kû (Southern Tutchone Lake Laberge Dialect) to its main downtown building in recognition of the Southern Tutchone language of both First Nations.

The translation means "place where they talk about Kwanlin (Whitehorse) area/Place where they discuss Whitehorse area (affairs:business)." A special tribute was also made to the translation team led by Nakhela Hazel Bunbury, which included the hard work of Debbie Burns, and Stewart Tizya. Speakers at the event included Chief Amanda Leas, Chief Sean Smith, TKC Elder Nakhela Hazel Bunbury, Mayor Laura Cabott and City Councillor Michelle Friesen. "We need to honour Nakhela, Hazel Bunbury, who is here with us today," Chief Amanda Leas told those gathered. There are not enough words that can properly thank her for her contribution to preserving our language. Her work as a language keeper and translator is irreplaceable. Hazel, on behalf of Ta'an Kwächän Council, thank you with all our hearts for making history today with this wonderful translation."



Nakhela Hazel Bunbury and Chief Amanda Leas.



Water Monitoring Program – TKC Lands & Resources are busy this summer on a number of water monitoring projects. These include understanding the impacts of the Horse Creek washout in July 2022, water quality and temperature data collection across Lake Laberge and its tributaries and scouting of surface and groundwater monitoring along Shallow Bay. These projects are intended to build staff capacity and partnerships, as well as collect baseline data so that we can take conservation actions to protect our freshwater ecosystems into the future. Project partners for this work include Ken Nordin of Water Science Technologies who is providing water quality testing and training to staff and Yukon Government Water Resources Branch who are conducting groundwater monitoring and well sampling in the Shallow Bay area.

TKC Hosts Yukon Forum at Lake Laberge

On June 19, Yukon Premier Ranj Pillai, his Cabinet, Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Peter Johnston and Yukon First Nations Chiefs met at Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Fish Camp for the Yukon Forum. Premier Pillai noted the last time such a meeting took place out on the land was in 2016 and he hoped more meetings on the land can be held in the future.

Leaders had collective discussions related to supporting the work of the Residential Schools and Missing Children Project and responding to the Yukon's Substance Use Health Emergency. Leaders also had a strategic conversation on how to best advance the collaborative work between the governments through venues such as Yukon Days, the Intergovernmental Forum and the Yukon Forum itself.

Chief Amanda Leas says her key takeaway from the meeting was that leaders were able to bring some real issues to the forefront. She noted the fact that this forum was on the land and in a more traditional outdoor setting may have benefited the group.

"A very large topic was the opioid crisis and the very real trauma that surrounds us. They were definitely heavy topics but everybody was here for it, and we were allowed that space to really talk, and let our feelings out," Chief Leas said, adding, "I think that's so important, because to be able to move forward, we need to be heard. Around the table we were very supportive of one another and our governments and that was good. It's really about finding that healthy path forward together."



Early signs of revival

TKC Wildlife Monitors Kadin Hare and Austin Smith were out in the field on June 16 at Shallow Bay assisting Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) with fisheries sampling to support juvenile fish knowledge in the area as part of the Whitehorse Dam Relicensing Project that Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation are a part of with Yukon Energy.

They found wild juvenile Chinook, noted by the presence of their adipose fin still intact. The removal of this fin would indicate it was raised at the Fish Hatchery here in Whitehorse but these salmon had their fin – meaning they were likely reared within the last year at Shallow Bay. They also found Longnose Suckers, Pike and Whitefish in the bay.

These findings give us all the more reason to understand the fish habitat and hydrology of Shallow Bay and continue to fight to protect this diverse and important habitat for generations ahead. For more information contact Brandon Crawford, Supervisor of Fish and Wildlife at (867) 668-3613 ext. 603 or email fishandwildlife@taan.ca.



Southern Lakes Salmon Plan Launched

A ground-breaking Southern Lakes Salmon Plan has been developed for Yukon River chinook salmon. Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail, this Indigenous-focused plan aims to protect the critical role of salmon within the cultures, languages, landscapes, and laws of the First Nations in the Southern Lakes. The plan is a collaboration between the Kwanlin Dün, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

During these times of unprecedented low Yukon River chinook salmon runs, it is more important than ever to take efforts to maintain salmon culture. The plan brings the Southern Lakes First Nations, together as salmon people acknowledging traditional laws and ways and provides a path to re-connect to the broken salmon trail.

Chief Leas: "The Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail plan symbolizes our deep respect for the salmon and the interwoven connections between our culture, our land, and our people. This plan allows us to honor our ancestors' teachings while ensuring the well-being of future generations."

Through the implementation of this holistic salmon plan, the Southern Lakes First Nations are not giving up on salmon and will continue to centre them in the lives of the people, animals and ecosystem. The three First Nation governments are currently working on a complementary implementation plan that ties initiatives and resources to support salmon.

The salmon plan was funded by the Yukon River Panel's Restoration and Enhancement Fund.



Weather cooperated nicely on June 7 for the annual planting of the Reconciliation Garden in front of the Whitehorse Detachment, RCMP Headquarters. Each year, TKC joins Kwanlin Dün First Nation to plant the heart shaped garden, which serves as a testament to the unique approach to reconciliation that exists in Yukon. TKC Councillor Diane Graham, Wellness Coordinator Charlene Burns, and Heritage Coordinator Debbie Burns helped with this year's planting. We look forward to watching these flowers grow and flourish over the summer!



Meet Our Grads!

Join us as we celebrate our Class of 2023. In June, TKC students were honoured and recognized for their hard work and achievements, as they graduated from high school, universities, and post-secondary programs throughout Canada. Congratulations to everyone who makes up the Class of 2023!



Stewart Tizya



Janelle Clethero



Kadin Hare



Teya Sequin



Taylor LaChapelle



Jordan Lee Lavalley

POST SECONDARY GRADUATES



Stewart Tizya

(Chief Jim Boss Family)

Youth Trainee Language Leaders Certificate
Simon Fraser University, in partnership with
Yukon Native Language Centre



Kadin Hare

(Maggie Broeren Family)

Environmental Monitoring Certificate
Graduated with Honours
Yukon University



Janelle Clethero

(Jenny Lebarge Family)

Bachelor of Science Degree in
Nursing—University of Calgary

GRADE 12 GRADUATES



Teya Seguin (with Chief Leas) graduated from the Independent Learning Centre (ILC). Teya is a member of the Chief Jim Boss Family. At right, Jordan Lee Lavallee (with her mom, Krista Lee Johns, Chief Leas and sister Jewel Carr) graduated from the ILC in Carcross. Jordan Lee is a member of the Maggie Broeren Family. Congratulations Teya and Jordan Lee!



Taylor LeChappelle is a graduate from the ILC. Taylor is joined by her Grandmother Barb LaChapelle, Grandfather Russ LaChapelle (with Taylor's son, Odin Daniels) and her partner, Zane Daniels. Taylor is a member of the Susie Jim Family. Congratulations Taylor!

CITIZENS FIRST HOUSING



Unit 1 at the Lake Laberge site is a three-bedroom home now ready for occupancy.

TKC Housing & Infrastructure Department is pleased to announce the new addition of nine mobile units at Lake Laberge. With assistance from the tenant relations department at Da Daghay Development Corporation (DDDC) we were able to successfully gain occupancy and open the units up to nine Citizens. It is an extremely exciting achievement coinciding with our “Citizens First Housing Initiative.”

Housing & Infrastructure Manager Matthew Dickson: “I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the great folks within H&I Department. It wouldn’t be possible without the great dedicated team we have, as well as DDDC in achieving what I believe to be a monumental step forward. There were many frustrations and some delays along the way, but we all worked together and persevered, resulting in nine new units in under a year. So, when you put that into perspective it is pretty monumental and definitely something I am very proud to have

been apart of. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and assistance this past year. I think we achieved some great things and I look forward to learning from some mistakes and improving on upcoming projects.” For more information, contact TKC Housing Manager Matthew Dickson at (867) 668-3613 ext. 501. or email housingmanager@taan.ca.



Chief Amanda Leas with Vince Smarch, TKC’s Supervisor/Capital Infrastructure Coordinator, during her tour of the new mobile homes in May.

HR HIGHLIGHTS

Going Full-Time Permanent

Shawana Williams is the new permanent Environmental Assessment Technician. Shawana has worked in this position since the summer of 2022. She greatly enjoys working in this capacity for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Shawana is a Yukon community member, from Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and belongs to the Wolf Clan. Her formal education includes an Associate of Arts Degree in Environmental Geography and a Diploma in Northern Environmental Studies.

Her past work experience includes mining reclamation, fire management, pest control, and heritage interpreter.

Shawana brings with her a passion for meshing Indigenous Knowledge with Western Knowledge, and fighting for rights as set out in the Yukon First



Nation Self Government Agreements.

In her free time, she enjoys gardening, nature walks, cooking and hanging out with her children. Congratulations Shawana!

Shawana can be contacted at (867) 667-3613 ext. 610 or environmentaltech@taan.ca.

Summer Students back in action for 2023

We are very happy to be offering a very warm welcome to our nine returning high school and post secondary students this summer! We would also like to welcome to the team one new post-secondary and two new high school summer students. Sean, Marcus and Alex we hope that this summer's experience will be a valuable one for you and that you will be eager to come back to work for your government for many years to come!

Post-Secondary Students

Sean Jones and Brooklyn Massie (Lands & Resources) and Sydney Miller and Adrianna Smith (Development).

High School Students

Nataley Anderson and Teya Seguin (Development); Marcus Herron and Albert Peters (Housing & Infrastructure); Janeva Pope and Madison Sutherland (Communications and

Governance); Alexander LeBarge (Lands & Resources); and Kashtyn Leas (Administration (I.T))



From left: Student Adrianna Smith, Sarrah Telep, (TKC Staff) and students Brooke Massie, Albert Peters, Maddy Sutherland, Alex LeBarge and Marcus Heron attend TKC's Summer Kick Off event held at TKC Fish Camp on June 23.

In the Spotlight ...



K'alazha's granddaughter, Jessie Dawson, received a Pioneer of the Year Award in her grandfather's honour on June 6.

George Dawson honoured

The family of George Dawson was given a great honour on June 6 when the Yukon Transportation Museum inducted the late K'alazhaw (George Dawson) into the Hall of Fame with a Pioneer of the Year Award. George was the nephew of Ta'an's Hereditary Chief Jim Boss and spent his life working tirelessly in many different industries to support his family.

K'alazhaw worked alongside Chief Boss for many years transporting the mail and goods the old-fashioned way, by horse-drawn sleigh. He was a remarkable man and worked hard at everything -- pounding spikes along the White Pass railway, crewing the steamboats – and most importantly he worked hard with his wife Rachael raising their nine children. K'alazhaw passed away in 1989. His legacy is large and continues today through his family that include granddaughters Jessie Dawson and Gloria Peters.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sarrah Telep is an active TKC Youth Councillor representing the Jenny Dawson Family. Sarrah currently works for TKC as the Accounts Payable Clerk with the Department of Finance.

Who is someone you admire and why do you look up to them?

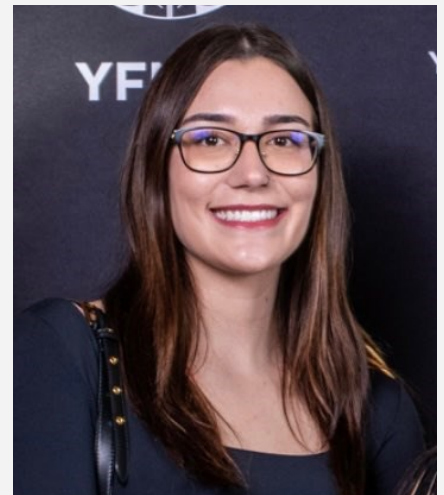
I look up to my late grandmothers Shirley Telep and Gail Anderson. They were both strong, determined, and compassionate. They each taught me different lessons. My grandma Shirley taught me to stand up for what I believe in. My grandma Gail showed me how to lead with my heart. My grandmothers were my best friends, and I am so grateful for the time I was able to spend with them and hear their stories. I find pieces of them in myself each day and I am so lucky to have had such remarkable women in my life.

How can youth get involved with TKC?

TKC is always posting opportunities, such as conferences and events on Facebook. I strongly suggest to 'follow,' so you don't miss out on anything. I also encourage you to apply for summer employment, as well as helping with Community Meetings and General Assemblies. These events are great opportunities for youth to be exposed to First Nations governance processes. You gain a lot of tools and gain connections with amazing people in your community as well.

What is your vision for TKC Youth Council?

I am very happy to see the TKC Youth Council moving forward, and I hope to continue this journey. I am excited to learn more about TKC's government and to educate more TKC youth on what is happening in the community. I hope other youth feel more inclined to get involved now that we are in full motion. Youth Council is a safe space for all TKC youth and I hope it remains that way.





**Open
callout to
Citizens!**

BioBlitz at TKC Fish Camp

July 26-27, 2023

Looking for something fun to do this summer?

Come out on the land and water with TKC Lands & Resources!

We will explore Fish Camp and the Old Ta'an Village. Join us as we identify the diverse plants and wildlife of these important sites.

Share your stories of Tàa'an Män/Lake Laberge at the campfire!

Prizes, Citizen field packages, lunch and transportation to and from the event is provided.

Event runs both days 9am to 3pm



**Contact: Brandon Crawford, Supervisor of Fish and Wildlife
at (867) 668-3613 ext. 603 or email fishandwildlife@taan.ca**

JULY 20, 2023—5:30pm Community Meeting

TKC Fish Camp

Dinner & Discussions

Door Prizes

(Transportation will be available)

**Contact:
TKC's Office Manager
at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203**

*Notice to all
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens*

You are invited to attend our
General Assembly

August 11-13, 2023

TKC Fish Camp—Lake Laberge

**DEADLINE FOR CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS IS
July 17, 2023**

Delegate forms are available at the TKC

Admin Office and on the TKC website

You are encouraged to have forms in by August 4, 2023

***Children's Area: Special family
events will be held throughout
the weekend.***

Stay Tuned: Additional meeting details and/or
changes will be posted on www.taان.ca or on the
TKC Facebook page.



Citizens will also be
able to attend
virtually. A link will
be posted to

www.taان.ca

~ ~ ~

**DOOR PRIZES
and lots of
Giveaways!**

~ ~ ~

Send Constitution
amendments to:

legislationoffice@taan.ca,
attention Breanna Taylor.

For more information
contact TKC's Office
Manager at (867) 668-
3613 ext. 203
officemanager@taan.ca

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